

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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Living Conditions, Slavyanovo Village

1. Eighty to ninety percent of the people in Slavyanovo (N 43-28, E 24-53, population: 8,000) were forced to join the Farmer's Cooperative. The remaining ten to twenty percent form the former rich and middle class people who are declared as the people's enemies and are ineligible to join the cooperative.
2. Prior to 1952 there were four Farm Cooperatives and one State Farm at Slavyanovo. In 1952 the four cooperatives were united to form one large cooperative. The farming land of Slavyanovo village is divided into three parts; the largest part is owned by the State Farm; another part is owned by the farmer's cooperative; and the smallest part is owned by the enemy class.
3. The Slavyanovo cooperative does not possess any modern farm machinery. When such machinery is needed, it is obtained from the tractor station at Pordim, 10-12 kilometers away. The tractor stations belong to the State. Most of their equipment was taken from the rich farmers between 1944 and 1947.
4. The members of the Farm Cooperative are paid according to the number of days they work, e.g., if a family has three members working the most it can earn per year is 600-800 leva. After the cooperative sells the produce each member's earning are not more than one leva per day. That means that a family of three working 600-800 days per year will receive 600-800 leva, which is not even enough for their clothing needs.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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-2-

5. The greatest part of the yearly crop yield is turned over to the Government and the rest is given to the members of the cooperative according to the number of hours they have worked. In 1953 each member of the Slavyanovo Farm Cooperative received per day one kilogram of wheat, one leva, and a small quantity of other products.
6. Working at the cooperative is obligatory for the members. Those who miss a day of work have five days wages subtracted from their pay.
7. Living conditions for the members of the cooperatives are very difficult. The village people are penniless; some cannot even afford to go to the barber shop. The Communist Party has tried to prevent them from saving any money and has been successful. The older people talk of the days before 1944 and hope that those conditions will return.
8. Rationing was abolished in 1952, resulting in a rise in the cost-of-living. In the summer of 1954 there was a slight drop in prices, but not enough to make any difference in the standard of living. Some people are forced to sell some of their household furnishings in order to exist.
9. Clothing is unrationed and plentiful, but the people cannot afford to buy it.

Living Conditions for Non-Farm Workers

10. Government employees and artisans are no better off than the peasants and laborers, for they must join the various cooperatives. The favored class in the present Bulgarian regime is that of the Communist administrators. They receive two to three times the salary paid to the other classes. For example, a Bulgarian Army captain receives 1000-1200 leva per month, whereas an ordinary Government employee or laborer receives only 400-500 leva per month.

Free Markets

11. On certain days of the week there are free markets where villagers and members of the farm cooperatives may sell their produce at free prices to the public.

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